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Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization

Letter dated 3 November 2003 from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly

At the opening of the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly, I announced my intention to establish a High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change. The Panel was to be tasked with examining the major threats and challenges the world faces in the broad field of peace and security, including economic and social issues insofar as they relate to peace and security, and making recommendations for the elements of a collective response. The terms of reference of the Panel are annexed for your information (see annex I).

I am pleased to inform you that I have now appointed a group of eminent people to serve on the Panel (see annex II for the full list of panellists). Anand Panyarachun, former Prime Minister of Thailand, has agreed to chair the group, which hopes to hold its first meeting in late November.

(Signed) Kofi A. Annan

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Annex I

Terms of reference of the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change

1. The past year has shaken the foundations of collective security and undermined confidence in the possibility of collective responses to our common problems and challenges. It has also brought to the fore deep divergences of opinion on the range and nature of the challenges we face, and are likely to face in the future.

2. The aim of the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change is to recommend clear and practical measures for ensuring effective collective action, based on a rigorous analysis of future threats to peace and security, an appraisal of the contribution that collective action can make and a thorough assessment of existing approaches, instruments and mechanisms, including the principal organs of the United Nations.

3. The Panel is not being asked to formulate policies on specific issues, nor on the United Nations role in specific places. Rather, it is being asked to provide a new assessment of the challenges ahead, and to recommend the changes that will be required if these challenges are to be met effectively through collective action.

4. Specifically, the Panel will:

(a) Examine today's global threats and provide an analysis of future challenges to international peace and security. While there may continue to exist a diversity of perceptions on the relative importance of the various threats facing particular Member States on an individual basis, it is important to find an appropriate balance at a global level. It is also important to understand the connections between different threats;

(b) Identify clearly the contribution that collective action can make in addressing these challenges;

(c) Recommend the changes necessary to ensure effective collection action, including but not limited to a review of the principal organs of the United Nations.

5. The Panel's work is confined to the field of peace and security, broadly interpreted. That is, it should extend its analysis and recommendations to other issues and institutions, including economic and social, only insofar as they have a direct bearing on future threats to peace and security.

Annex II

Composition of the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change

Chairman

Anand Panyarachun (Thailand), former Prime Minister of Thailand

Members

Robert Badinter (France), Member of the French Senate and former Minister of Justice of France

João Clemente Baena Soares (Brazil), former Secretary-General of the Organization of American States

Gro Harlem Brundtland (Norway), former Prime Minister of Norway and Director-General of the World Health Organization

David Hannay (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), former Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations and United Kingdom Special Envoy to Cyprus

Mary Chinery-Hesse (Ghana), Vice-Chairman, National Development Planning Commission of Ghana and former Deputy Director-General, International Labour Organization

Gareth Evans (Australia), President of the International Crisis Group and former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia

Enrique Iglesias (Uruguay), President of the Inter-American Development Bank

Amre Moussa (Egypt), Secretary-General of the League of Arab States

Satish Nambiar (India), former Lieutenant-General in the Indian Army and Force Commander of the United Nations Protection Force

Sadako Ogata (Japan), former United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Yevgeny Primakov (Russian Federation), former Prime Minister of the Russian Federation

Qian Qichen (China), former Vice-Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of China

Nafis Sadiq (Pakistan), former Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund

Salim Ahmed Salim (United Republic of Tanzania), former Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity

Brent Scowcroft (United States of America), former Lieutenant-General in the United States Air Force and United States National Security Adviser